

House Resolution 1070

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Frazier of the 123rd, Bruce of the 64th, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Williams of the 165th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the memory of Ms. Viola Liuzzo and other unsung heroes; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, on March 25, 1968, the same day the Selma-to-Montgomery Civil Rights
3 March ended at the capitol steps in Montgomery, Ms. Viola Liuzzo was murdered by the Ku
4 Klux Klan; and
- 5 WHEREAS, a resident of Detroit, Ms. Liuzzo had been inspired to make a three-day trip to
6 Alabama to participate in the Selma-to-Montgomery march by the death of James Reeb and
7 after seeing the images of "Bloody Sunday" on television; and
- 8 WHEREAS, after the successful march, Ms. Liuzzo and Mr. Leroy Moton drove a group of
9 participants from Montgomery to Selma; and
- 10 WHEREAS, while Ms. Liuzzo was driving Mr. Moton to the airport, a car with four
11 passengers drove up alongside her vehicle and shot her through the window, killing her
12 instantly; and
- 13 WHEREAS, four members of the United Klans of America were arrested, tried, and
14 acquitted for the murder of Ms. Liuzzo by an all-white jury in Lowndes County, Alabama;
15 and
- 16 WHEREAS, the United States Justice Department then tried the men in a federal court for
17 violating Ms. Liuzzo's civil rights, and each of them received a ten-year sentence; and
- 18 WHEREAS, the tragic death of Ms. Liuzzo revealed to the world the moral vacuity of the
19 segregationists and was proclaimed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a sacrifice for the
20 redemption of all mankind; and

21 WHEREAS, her death, along with the deaths of Reverend James Reeb, Michael Schwerner,
22 James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, Medgar Evers, Harriette and Harry Moore, and Jimmie
23 Lee Jackson, spurred the country and government to action with President Lyndon Johnson
24 and the United States Congress passing the Voting Rights Act; and

25 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the extraordinary lives of Ms. Liuzzo and the
26 many unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Movement be appropriately honored and recognized
27 for the great sacrifice they made for this nation.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body join in honoring the memories of Ms. Viola Liuzzo and the unsung
30 heroes of the Civil Rights Movement.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Ms. Viola
33 Liuzzo.